

Dor Ridge Cemetery

DRIVER 12

SPRINGFIELD

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Illinois Springfield

Oak Ridge Cemetery

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

4th Cent. journal Oct 27, 1937

Cemeteries Places Of Beauty

Oak Ridge, Established In 1855, And Calvary, In 1860, Provide Quiet Resting Places For Thousands Of Springfield Dead.

Springfield citizens—from the pioneer days on down to 1937—always have been proud of their cemeteries—Oak Ridge, opened in 1855, and Calvary, organized in 1860.

The two cemeteries are beauty spots of the Capital city, picturesque in their natural beauty, and wrapped in an atmosphere of peacefulness and quiet.

Oak Ridge cemetery, in which nearly forty thousands persons are buried, was first a tract of about a dozen acres. The area now contains about two hundred fifty acres, holding the tombs of President Lincoln and three Illinois governors.

Previous to 1855 there had been two cemeteries in Springfield, both within the city limits. The one was named the "Old City graveyard," comprising four acres, and the other was called Hutchinson cemetery, a private enterprise of six acres.

A city ordinance forbade the further use of the "Old City graveyard" in 1856, because it was situated directly in the center of the rapidly growing city and for that reason was no more desirable.

John Cook Suggested Name.

In 1856 a second purchase increased the size of Oak Ridge cemetery to twenty-eight acres and the grounds were changing gradually from a wilderness to a quiet resting place. The growth of ancient oak trees on the grounds prompted John Cook, then mayor of Springfield, to suggest the name of Oak Ridge.

Dedication ceremonies took place on May 24, 1860, with the mayor and members of the city council joining with the townspeople in the program, marching to the cemetery from the downtown district.

Improvements soon were needed. An extensive system of drives was begun. A massive stone and iron gateway was built, and an artistic stone structure for the gatekeeper was erected at the left of the entrance.

The building program also included a cottage building for the residence of the superintendent. The office of the cemetery is a stone structure located to the north of the

hill capped by the Lincoln monument.

The receiving tomb was remodeled for the temporary keeping of remains. Permanent improvements in the form of concrete walks were made, and from time to time additional grounds were laid out.

Dedicate Monument In 1874.

The towering Lincoln monument was dedicated Oct. 15, 1874. It was built on an eight acre plot donated by the city to the Lincoln Monument association, composed of prominent Springfield citizens who had sponsored the erection of the monument.

The memorial was taken over by the state in 1898 and in 1901 it was discovered that the foundation was inadequate to bear the weight of the structure and it was rebuilt. Again remodeled in 1931, the monument was rededicated by President Hoover with elaborate ceremonies. In essential appearance the monument remains the same, except that the interior has been changed and a few feet added to the height of the shaft.

Ninian Edwards, territorial governor of Illinois from 1809 to 1818, when it became a state, was buried in Oak Ridge cemetery a few years after its founding.

Next in size and impressiveness to the Lincoln monument is the tomb of William H. Bissell, tenth governor of Illinois, who died in office in 1860. Picturesque John R. Tanner, governor in 1897, died in 1901 and a monument was erected to him within the shadow of the Lincoln tomb.

Found Catholic Cemetery.

The Catholic pioneers of the city had no place to bury their dead for several years after the erection of the first Catholic church in Springfield.

Shortly after the appointment of the Rt. Rev. Henry Damian Juncker as the first Catholic bishop of the diocese of Alton, steps were taken to acquire such a cemetery.

On June 4, 1857, sixteen acres of ground adjoining and lying immediately north of Oak Ridge cemetery were bought from John Kavanaugh for the use of the Catholic congregation of Springfield. The first bur-

ials took place about 1860 and additional tracts were purchased, making a total up to 1891 of forty acres.

Four acres were set off by Bishop Juncker for the special use of the members of the SS. Peter and Paul's congregation, and the remainder for the benefit of the congregation of the Immaculate Conception. The pastor of each of the parishes controlled the respective portions, with no organization to manage the cemetery.

A mutual association, composed of members of the SS. Peter and Paul's and Sacred Heart congregations, was formed in 1890 to care for, beautify and improve the German Catholic cemetery. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, prescribing rules and regulations for the operation of the cemetery.

To give the association permanence and to enable it to receive endowments and bequests for perpetual care, it was incorporated in 1906

under the name "German Catholic Cemetery association of Springfield, Illinois."

New life was instilled in the membership with the incorporation of the cemetery, and endowments became more frequent. Annual reports began to be published.

The management of the portion allotted to the Church of the Immaculate Conception was efficiently carried on by a mutual association known as the Calvary Catholic Cemetery association, under the direction of the Vicar General Very Rev. Timothy Hickey.

Consolidated In 1924.

Consolidation of the two managements became apparent with the removal of the diocesan seat to Springfield and the appointment of the Rt. Rev. James A. Griffin as the new bishop. The consolidation was made in 1924 and the name changed to "Calvary Cemetery association of Springfield, Illinois."

A constitution and by-laws were adopted, providing among other things, that nine members of the board should be chosen from the German Catholic Cemetery association and the other nine members from the board of the Calvary Catholic Cemetery association.

The board of directors is divided

into three major committees—finance, grounds and decorations—each with special functions. The association consists of about 2,000 members, paying annual dues of \$1 a year, used in the general upkeep of the cemetery.

Through the efforts of Bishop Griffin, a systematic celebration of a field mass in connection with Memorial day has been established, an event attracting wide attention.

Valuable and lasting improvements have been made at Calvary cemetery through the tireless work of the association. New roads and driveways have been built. Numerous shade trees were planted.

A permanent chapel was constructed and a receiving vault built. Memorial plots for soldiers and sailors were laid out. Calvary cemetery has

taken its place among the places of interest and beauty in Springfield.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, that The Lincoln National Life Foundation of Fort Wayne, Indiana, be and it is hereby authorized and requested to carry a notice concerning the publication and availability of the map of Oak Ridge Cemetery in the issue of "LINCOLN LORE", on or after February 12, 1947, as published by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Lincoln National Life Foundation and The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company be apprised of the appreciation and thanks of the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery for the interest and assistance extended in acquainting the public with the completion of the map.

ADOPTED: January 23rd, 1947.

F.H.Lindley
President

M.M.Smith
Secretary

I, M.M. Smith, Secretary of the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the said board at a special meeting held Thursday, January 23, 1947, as appears on the records on file in my office.

Dated this 28th day of January, A.D. 1947.

M.M. Smith

M. M. Smith
Secretary, Board of
Managers, Oak Ridge
Cemetery.

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EAST WASHINGTON
AT FIFTEENTH ST.
TELEPHONE 3-5694

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

February 5, 1947

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Honorable Fleetwood H. Lindley is absent from the state and he has asked me to send to you a copy of the map of Oak Ridge Cemetery, a copy of the press release and the Resolution which was passed requesting the assistance of your organization in publicizing the availability of the map. The map, flier and the newspaper release are being sent to you under separate cover.

The Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery will greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to render.

Most sincerely,


Carter Jenkins

CJ:mb

Enc.

See map in Lincoln file

February 10, 1947

Mr. Carter Jenkins
Jenkins, Merchant & Nankivil
East Washington Washington at Fifteenth St.
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

We regret to advise you that Dr. Warren is now on an extensive speaking itinerary which will not bring him back to the office until the middle of March.

Just as soon as he returns I will call his attention to your letter and to the other material sent.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Moellering
sec'y.

PRESS RELEASE

Oak Ridge Cemetery
Springfield, Illinois
February 8, 1947

For Release
in Sunday Papers
February 9, 1947

The Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery today announced the publication, in color, of the new map of historic Oak Ridge Cemetery where Abraham Lincoln is buried. This map shows all of the original Cemetery, together with proposed park lawn developments adjacent to the newly constructed Lincoln Memorial Drive which has been built by the State of Illinois. The Oak Ridge Cemetery map is available for public distribution and it is expected to become a prominent document pertaining to Lincoln, which will be used by schools, colleges, and universities in the teaching of history and in the study of Lincoln's life. Distribution will be made by the Board of Managers through the Cemetery Office in Springfield, Illinois.

Publication of a comprehensive map is the first step in a program planned by the Board of Managers of the Cemetery to focus international attention on the historic significance of the Cemetery. As there had been no map of the Cemetery since 1905, the first step in its preparation was a detailed historical and legal study of records pertaining to the Cemetery. From this study the true importance of the Cemetery and its place among world monuments was clearly revealed.

Oak Ridge Cemetery was begun in 1855 by the deeding to the City of Springfield of seventeen acres of land by Archer G. Herndon, soon followed by other acquisitions, thereby starting one of the first cemeteries in the Middle West which was a part

of City government. Since that time much additional land has been obtained through gifts and purchase so that the Cemetery now comprises one hundred and seventy-six acres. In 1865, after the death of President Lincoln, a plot of land within the Cemetery, which Lincoln had often stated was a beautiful burial site, was given by the City of Springfield to the National Lincoln Monument Association for the purpose of providing his final resting place. The tomb was dedicated in 1874. President Lincoln's body was first placed in a receiving vault or crypt where it was held temporarily. Reconstruction of the tomb occurred in 1901 and again in 1931. The last reconstruction produced the most artistic use of bronze and marble of any tomb in the world and it was rededicated by President Herbert Hoover in ceremonies which received national notice.

Oak Ridge Cemetery is administered by a Board of Managers which is a part of the City government of Springfield, the Capitol of Illinois. These men, all civic and business leaders, administer the Cemetery as an honor to the man whose formative years and later life were spent around Springfield.

The historical study in connection with plans for compiling the map revealed that the Cemetery streets and drives bore names which had been selected at random and without particular regard to the historicity of the area. Many of the streets and drives have been renamed to give them closer Lincoln association. Expressions from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and from the letter which he wrote Mrs. Bixby, mother of five sons who served in the Union Army, were used in renaming several of the drives.

The three State Capitols of Illinois have been commemorated beginning with Kaskaskia, which was the territorial Capitol, then Vandalia and lastly Springfield. Immediately in front of the tomb, the Village of New Salem and the part it played in his life has been preserved in the name "New Salem Place."

The names of four citizens of Illinois who were contemporaries of Lincoln and who did much in adding to his fame are also used as prominent Cemetery street names. Ulysses S. Grant, who left Galena, an unknown, to become the first full General in the Army of the United States, has been given a place of utmost prominence in "Grant Drive." This thoroughfare approaches closely to the tomb and gives access also to much of the older section of the Cemetery. Grant was personally selected by Lincoln to command the forces of the United States and by his military genius achieved victory over the Southern Confederacy.

Another illustrious Illinois citizen so honored was Major General John A. Logan whose home was in Murphysboro. General Logan was a brilliant Army Commander and largely through his efforts after the Civil War the Grand Army of the Republic was formed. In addition to his military prominence he officially originated Memorial Day and by so doing directed more attention to the commemoration of war heroes and the honoring of the cities of the dead than any other person. Yet as far as is known, Oak Ridge Cemetery is the only burial ground where he is remembered by naming one of its principal drives for him.

Another drive bears the name of Stephen A. Douglas, who although a political opponent of Lincoln, did much toward helping

him to reach fame and at his inauguration showed complete loyalty to him as President.

One of the lanes in the Cemetery has been named for Ann Rutledge who, in story, has been so closely linked with Lincoln during their residence in New Salem.

These four individuals, by their association with Lincoln, share with him the honor of having their names perpetuated on the hallowed ground in which he is interred.

The map, which is printed in full color, carries a tribute in its caption lines, "HERE IN ETERNAL REVERENCE RESTS ABRAHAM LINCOLN." The art work on the map of Oak Ridge Cemetery has been presented largely to show Lincoln's life in Illinois. In the lefthand corner there appears a sketch of the monument marking the place where the Lincoln family entered Illinois after crossing the Wabash River at Vincennes, Indiana. In this, Lincoln, the youth, appears as the principal figure. The sketch in the upper lefthand corner is of the Lincoln-Berry store at New Salem. Here he gained contacts with human nature, here his education was continued and here romance has linked his name with Ann Rutledge. In the upper righthand corner there appears a sketch of his home in Springfield where his family was reared and which is now preserved by the State of Illinois in tribute to his life in Springfield. In the lower lefthand corner appears a sketch of the magnificent tomb which has been erected in memory of Illinois' world loved citizen. Even the border of the map has been kept in harmony with the name of the Cemetery in that the corner

illuminations are oak leaves and acorns. The presence of oak trees throughout the Cemetery originally gave it its name and the oak tree is the State tree of Illinois.

In addition to the Lincoln Tomb, the map indicates the location of other prominent monuments in Oak Ridge Cemetery, many of which are erected to famous people of Illinois as well as to the brave men who later helped to form the Grand Army of the Republic, men whose bodies lie close to their Commander in Chief, achieving an honor above others who are buried all over the world.

The principal entrance to the Cemetery is through Monument Avenue which is on a north and south axis with the State Capitol Building. A second entrance has been constructed in the building of Lincoln Memorial Drive which winds through the Cemetery and provides impressive views of the tomb before it is actually reached by visitors.

The first one thousand maps of Oak Ridge Cemetery to be distributed will bear the autograph of Fleetwood H. Lindley, who is now President of the Board of Managers. Mr. Lindley is one of the last three living persons to have seen Lincoln's body. The Lindley family has long been well known in Springfield and Mr. Lindley's father before him, Mr. Joseph Perry Lindley, was in his time also a member of the Board of Managers. When Lincoln's body was returned to the tomb after it was rebuilt in 1901, Fleetwood Lindley, a mere boy, accompanied his father who saw his body in 1888, and who had been appointed as one of a committee of five men to view the body again for the purpose of

identifying it before it was placed in the new tomb and permanently sealed. He treasures the opportunity given him by that historic occasion.

The other members of the Board of Managers are: John W. Kapp, Jr., Mayor; Dr. Howard S. Layman; Luther E. Estaque; Walter E. Lindgren; and John W. Hobbs. Mrs. Marie Moore Smith is Secretary and Albert C. Larsen is Superintendent of the Cemetery.

In addition to the widespread interest in the map throughout Illinois, the Board of Managers of the Cemetery believes that because of the many famous citizens buried in the Cemetery, the map will attract both national and international interest. Further adding to this belief is the fact that hundreds of requests have been received for a brochure of the Cemetery, a Cemetery which will always live in the hearts of those who study American history and who believe in its principles of democracy, principles of a nation where a young unlettered boy achieved command of language unsurpassed by mortal man, whose leadership preserved his country as the greatest of nations.

Oak Ridge Cemetery is one of the most honored cemeteries of the world and the publication of the map on February 12, the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, makes available another significant public document to be added to the volumes of printed data in tribute to his simplicity, his achievement in preserving the Union, and his belief in the rights of man.

OAK RIDGE IS RESTING PLACE OF 33 THOUSAND

Organized In '55, Cemetery Now Has 215 Acres.

Organized in 1855 with a tract of a dozen acres, Oak Ridge cemetery has grown until it now contains 215 acres and holds the tombs of a martyred president and three Illinois governors.

Previous to 1855 there had been two cemeteries in Springfield, both well within the city limits. The "Old City Graveyard," which comprised about four acres, had been set apart by Maj. Elisha Iles, but in 1856 a city ordinance forbade its further use, and it reverted to its owner. Fifteen years later the ground was bought by the board of education, and on it was built the old Central High school.

The second of these was the Hutchinson cemetery, a private enterprise containing about six acres, and lying a short distance west of the "Old City Graveyard." In 1866 its use was discontinued, and many of its lot owners transferred their holdings to Oak Ridge, which had already begun its rapid growth.

In Center Of City.

The two old graveyards then lay right in the center of the rapidly growing city. Buildings were being erected on all sides of them, so that from a sanitary point of view the old cemeteries were no longer desirable, and a new one became necessary.

In 1856, a second purchase increased the size of Oak Ridge to 28½ acres, and the grounds were rapidly converted from a wilderness to a place of rest and beauty. Nature had already done much, and the prevailing growth of ancient oak trees led John Cook, then mayor, to suggest the name Oak Ridge, which was adopted.

Previous to 1858, but little improvement was made in the grounds, and until 1860 the cemetery was under the control of the city council. In that year the charter was revised to define more closely the tenure of lot owners, and an extensive series of improvements was outlined. The amended charter also provided for a board of managers, who were then appointed as follows: Turner R. King, president; James L. Lamb, Gilbert S. Manning, Benjamin F. Fox, and Presco Wright, secretary. George Willis was appointed sexton.

Dedicated In 1860.

On Thursday, May 24, 1860, the cemetery grounds, as originally laid out, were dedicated. The mayor and members of the city council, with a large concourse of citizens, participated in the impressive ceremony. It was a bright spring day, perfect for the occasion. A procession formed at the square, and under the direction of John S. Bradford and Thomas J. Dennis, marshals of the day, marched to the cemetery.

Numerous improvements were made after that time, including an extensive system of drives, a massive stone and iron gateway, and the erection of an artistic stone structure for gate keeper at the left of the entrance. Buildings also include a cottage building for residence of the superintendent, and other necessary buildings for stables and sheds. The office of the cemetery is a stone structure located to the north of the hill capped by the Lincoln monument. The receiving tomb has been remodeled and is provided with a sufficient number of cribs for the accommodation of temporary keeping of remains.

Many other permanent improvements have been made, such as concrete walks and the adding, platting, ornamenting and laying out of additional grounds at various times in the cemetery's history.

Lincoln Monument.

The Lincoln monument was dedicated Oct. 15, 1874. It was built on an eight acre plat donated by the city to the Lincoln Monument association, an organization composed of prominent Springfield citizens who had sponsored the erection of the structure. Its care remained in their hands until, most of them having died, it was taken over in 1898 by the state. In 1901 it was found that the foundation of the monument was inadequate to bear the weight of the structure, and it was rebuilt. It was again remodeled in 1931, and rededicated with extensive ceremonies. But in essential appearance it remains the same. The interior has been changed, and a few feet added to the height of the shaft, but that is all.

The remains of Ninian Edwards, who served as territorial governor of Illinois from 1809 to 1818, when it became a state, were removed to Oak Ridge cemetery a few years after its founding. Mr. Edwards, who died in 1833, was originally buried at Belleville, which city had been his home.

Next in size and impressiveness to the Lincoln monument is the tomb of William H. Bissell, tenth governor of Illinois, who died in office March 18, 1860. Governor Bissell had been buried in Hutchinson's cemetery, but in 1867 the legislature in recognition of his services voted an appropriation of \$5,000 for the erection of a monument in his memory.

The picturesque John R. Tanner, who became governor of Illinois in 1897, also rests in Oak Ridge cemetery. He died in 1901, and a handsome monument was erected for him almost within the shadow of the Lincoln tomb.

Graves Of 33,000.

At the present time over 33,000 persons have been buried in Oak Ridge cemetery. It comprises 215 acres of ground, including some 50 that are as yet undeveloped. It contains a special section of about one and one-half acres which is used exclusively by the Jews of the city, and smaller lots have been set aside for organizations such as the Odd Fellows, the Masons, the Knights of Pythias, and the Maccabees.

Its present board of managers is as follows: Fleetwood H. Lindley, president; Marie Moore Smith, secretary; Raymond J. Birnbaum, superintendent; Henry A. Converse, Dr. E. E. Hagler, George E. Keys and Clarence R. Clendenin, members.

Beautiful Oak Ridge Cemetery Burial Place of 35,000 Dead; Calvary, Roselawn Developed

The cities of the dead!

Beautiful and well-kept, they lie peacefully embracing the summer sunshine and winter snows impartially—inviting yet aloof—only their rolling lawns dotted with rising shafts indicative of the presence of the thousands of sleeping inhabitants.

Oak Ridge, Calvary and Roselawn.

Oldest of these is Oak Ridge. Organized in 1855 its original tract of a dozen acres has grown until now it consists of 210 acres, 50 of which are still undeveloped.

Distinguished the world over as the site of Lincoln's tomb—a mecca to which thousands of people make a pilgrimage annually—it also holds the remains of three Illinois governors and numerous other prominent persons.

First Cemetery Donated

Springfield's first burial spot was on about four acres of ground donated by Elijah Iles and long known as the "City Grave Yard." In 1856 its further use was forbidden by a city ordinance, and it reverted to its owner. Fifteen years later the ground was bought by the board of education and it is now the location of the Central High school.

The second burial ground was Hutchinson's cemetery, a private enterprise containing about six acres and lying a short distance from the city cemetery. In 1866 its use was discontinued, many of its lot owners transferring their holdings to Oak Ridge, which had already started its rapid growth. It later became the site of the Springfield High school.

Credit for insuring the Oak Ridge project is said to belong to Charles H. Lanphier, a member of the city council in 1855. The original plans and ground plats were made by William Sides, city engineer. Under his direction lots were laid out in squares, regardless of natural slopes and ravines. Wholly unadaptable to the purpose of a rural cemetery, they were soon abandoned.

The second survey and plat was made by William Saunders of Washington, D. C. His plan generally was more practical and in keeping with the natural layout. Then too, favoring the new site was the fact that the two old graveyards were right in the heart of the rapidly increasing city and that whatever building was to be done had to be done around them. From the sanitary point of view they were more than undesirable, hence the interest in the new location.

Named for Oak Ridge

In 1856 the cemetery had an area of 23½ acres covered with many ancient oak trees. Their prevailing growth led John Cook, then mayor, to suggest the name of Oak Ridge.

But little improvement was made in the grounds previous to 1858 and until 1860 the cemetery was under the city council's control. In that year the charter was revised for a closer definition of the tenure of lot owners and an extensive series of improvements were outlined.

Provision was also made for the board of managers who were appointed as follows: Turner R. King, president; James L. Lamb, Gilbert S. Manning, Benjamin F. Fox, and Fresco Wright, secretary. George Willis was named sexton.

On May 24, 1860, the grounds, as originally platted, were dedicated. The impressive ceremony was participated in by the mayor, members of the city council, and a large number of citizens. The weather was perfect. A procession formed at the square and under the direction of John S. Bradford and Thomas J. Dennis, marched to the grounds in the north part of the city.

Improvements Made

After that many improvements were made including an extensive system of drives, a massive stone and iron gateway, and the erection of an artistic stone structure for gate keeper at the left of the entrance.

A cottage for the superintendent was also included as well as necessary stables and sheds. The office of the cemetery is a stone building to the north of the hill capped by the Lincoln monument. The receiving tomb has been remodeled and is provided with a sufficient number of cribs for the accommodation of temporary keeping of remains. Concrete walks have been added and renovating and decorating is constantly underway. The Community Mausoleum was erected near the entrance in 1910-1912.

The Lincoln monument was not dedicated until 1874. Built on an eight acre plat, donated by the city to the Lincoln Monument association, it was cared for by that organization until 1898 when it was taken over by the state. It was rebuilt in 1901 and again remodeled in 1931. It is the same in outside appearance, however.

Edwards Buried Here

The remains of Ninian Edwards, territorial governor of Illinois from 1809 to 1818, when it became a state, are in Oak Ridge, having been removed there a few years after its founding. Mr. Edwards died in 1833 and was originally buried in Belleville, his former home.

One of the cemetery's most impressive tombs is that of William H. Bissell, tenth governor of Illinois, who died in office March 18, 1860. Governor Bissell was first buried in Hutchinson's cemetery but in 1867 the legislature voted a \$5,000 appropriation for the erection of a monument in recognition of his services.

Almost within the shadow of Lincoln's tomb is the handsome monument of John R. Tanner, governor of Illinois from 1897 to 1901. He died a few months after leaving office.

The Soldier's monument was erected in 1874 in the northwest part of the cemetery. An elegant column of Italian marble, it has a limestone base and is 14 feet in height. Upon its four sides are the names of 40 Union soldiers, a large part of whom died in service or on the battle field. Others died after the close of the war.

Stands on First Lot

Outstanding of the older private monuments are the McClelland, which stands on the first lot sold in the cemetery, the monument itself being one of the first erected; the Ruth marker, 17 feet high and made of Italian marble; the Gibson monument, erected in 1875 and standing

10½ feet high; the Kun monument, erected in 1865 of Italian marble and standing 14 feet upon a sandstone base and surmounted by a cross intertwined with ivy; the Washington Iles monument, of red Scotch granite and rising 15 feet; the Wohlgenuth monument, erected in 1873 and surmounted with the statue of Hope, made of Carara marble and executed in Italy; its total height is 21 feet, 10 inches.

The Harrower monument, the first Scotch granite marker erected in Oak Ridge; the Colwell monument, 22 feet in height and made in 1878 of Italian marble, is one of the largest private monuments in the cemetery; the Pasfield monument of gray Scotch granite; the Ridgely monument of red Scotch granite, 22 feet high and erected in 1874; the Elijah Iles monument, 16 feet high and made of Italian marble in 1875; the Smith monument, constructed of Italian marble, 16½ feet high; the Flagg monument, 16 feet high and surmounted by an urn; the Haynie monument, erected in 1869; the Barrell monument, erected in 1878 and made of gray Canada granite, standing 16 feet high; the Matheny monument made of Italian marble, and the Bates monument erected in 1874, made of red Scotch granite and standing 18 feet high.

35,000 Buried

At present, more than 35,000 people have been buried in Oak Ridge. A special section of about an acre and a half is used exclusively by Jews. Smaller lots have been set aside for such organizations as the Odd Fellows, the Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Macabees, the G. A. R., the Spanish war veterans, the American Legion, the Carrie Post Daughters, the Orphanage of the Holy Child, the Eagles and the Children's Service League. Officers and board members are Fleetwood Lindley, president; Mrs. Marie Moore Smith, city clerk; C. R. Glendenin, Louis Samuels, Dr. Elmer E. Hagler and Walter E. Lindgren. R. J. Birnbaum is superintendent.

No Taxes Assessed

Oak Ridge is essentially a city graveyard although no taxes are assessed or delegated towards its maintenance or development. The cemetery is entirely supported from the sale of lots, funds provided through gift or devise of lot owners, and funds for perpetual care applied to individual lots for which they are specified. Prior to 1930 perpetual care was applied only to those lots so protected through gift or devise of the lot owners. Since that date however all lots have been sold with an amount added to the purchase price for perpetual care. The present board of managers is making an effort to interest all lot owners who have not provided for perpetual care to do so, in order that their lots may have proper care for all time to come.

The board of managers of Oak

Ridge is appointed by the mayor, few changes in the membership being made except at death or resignation. The superintendent is appointed annually, the present superintendent having been in the employ of the board for 30 years.

Calvary Acquired

A cemetery for the Catholics was not acquired until 1857, several years after the erection of Springfield's first Catholic church. On June 4 of that year sixteen acres adjoining Oak Ridge cemetery were purchased, the first burials taking place about 1860. Subsequently several additional tracts have been bought.

Originally about four acres were set aside for the special use of the SS. Peter and Paul congregation, the remainder going to the Immaculate Conception members. Control of the portions was in the hands of the respective parish pastors.

On April 1, 1890 members of SS. Peter and Paul's and Sacred Heart congregations formed an association to care for, beautify and improve the German Catholic Calvary cemetery, as their lots were called.

First officers and directors were Rev. L. Riesen, president; Rev. C. Krekenberg, vice president; X. B. Christman, financial secretary; Henry Sommer, recording secretary; Frank Elshoff, treasurer; John M. Ochs, superintendent and Vincent Hemberger, Henry Becker, John W. Freund, Peter Lofy and Charles Groesch. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and rules and regulations prescribed for the operation of the cemetery.

Association Incorporated

Sixteen years later, in order to give the organization permanence and enable it to receive endowments and bequests for perpetual care, the association was incorporated under the name of "German Catholic Cemetery Association, Springfield, Illinois." The first board of directors included Rev. Riesen, Rev. Krekenberg, Frank Thoma, John Ochs, Vincent Hemberger, Carl Groesch and Peter Lofy.

The management of the Church of the Immaculate Conception portion was carried on by a mutual association known as the Calvary Catholic Cemetery association under the direction of Rev. Timothy Hickey.

On May 3, 1922 an additional 24 acres lying immediately north of the old cemetery grounds was purchased and two years later a consolidation of the two managements was effected, the name of the corporation changing to "Calvary Cemetery Association of Springfield, Illinois." A constitution and by-laws were adopted providing, among other things, that nine members should be chosen from each board.

Bishop Heads Officers

Officers and directors selected were: Bishop James A. Griffin, president; Rev. Riesen, vice president; Frank Trutter, corresponding secretary; Charles J. Wetterer, financial secretary-treasurer; W. B. Barry, X. B. Christman, T. P. Donelan, Joe Knoedler, N. M. Kramp, James Reilly, J. W. Sexton, J. J. Scanlan, Frank Buedel, T. J. Condon, George Groesch, Jr., George N. Kramp, Jerome O'Connell, W. D. Rose, George Schoenle and D. M. Walsh. According to the constitution, the bishop of the diocese shall always be president and the pastor of SS. Peter and Paul's church shall always be vice president.

Approximately 1,100 members com-

pose the association and pay a dollar a year toward the general upkeep of the cemetery. The graves receive perpetual care following an intensive campaign in 1900 for the establishment of a trust fund for that purpose.

Among the priests buried in the cemetery are Rev. John F. Berry, Rev. Michael Clifford, Rev. Patrick R. Ducey, Rev. Lawrence Hoey, Rev. William H. Murphy, Rev. John O'Sullivan, Rev. Michael Ryan, Rev. Patrick M. Rourke, Rev. Terrence Cowley, Rev. J. Jehle, Rev. James Howard, Rev. James Murray, Deacon Otto J. Phillip, Rev. E. M. Vigonet, Rev. F. W. Busch, Rev. Matthew J. Cummins, Rev. Louis Hinssen, Rev. Francis A. Luscius, Rev. James O'Connor, Rev. Laurence Ryan, Rev. Joseph A. M. Wilson, Rev. Daniel Higgins, Rev. George Hensey, Rev. Francis Curran, Rev. Geoffrey Egan, Rev. Maximilian J. Phillip and Rev. John Lupton.

The remains of Rev. Timothy Hickey were first buried in the cemetery but later removed to a crypt beneath the sanctuary of the new Cathedral on South Sixth street. In 1931 an altar was dedicated in memory of Father James Howard, first pastor of St. Agnes church.

Field Mass Celebrated

Through the efforts of Bishop Griffin, a systematic celebration of a field mass has been established in connection with Memorial day.

Calvary cemetery has 74 acres, 24 of which are still undeveloped. More than 12,000 persons are buried there. Many lasting improvements have been made. New roads and gateways have been constructed, old roads have been resurfaced and numerous shade trees have been planted. Water mains and sewers have been extended and registration of unmarked graves and lots is constantly underway. Much of the old ground, through filling and grading, has been made fit for burial purposes.

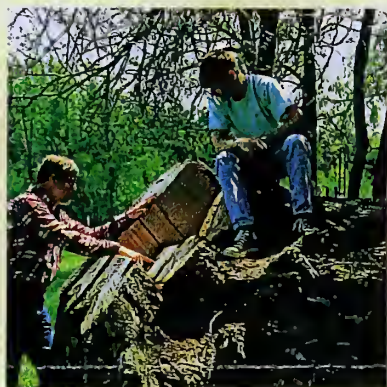
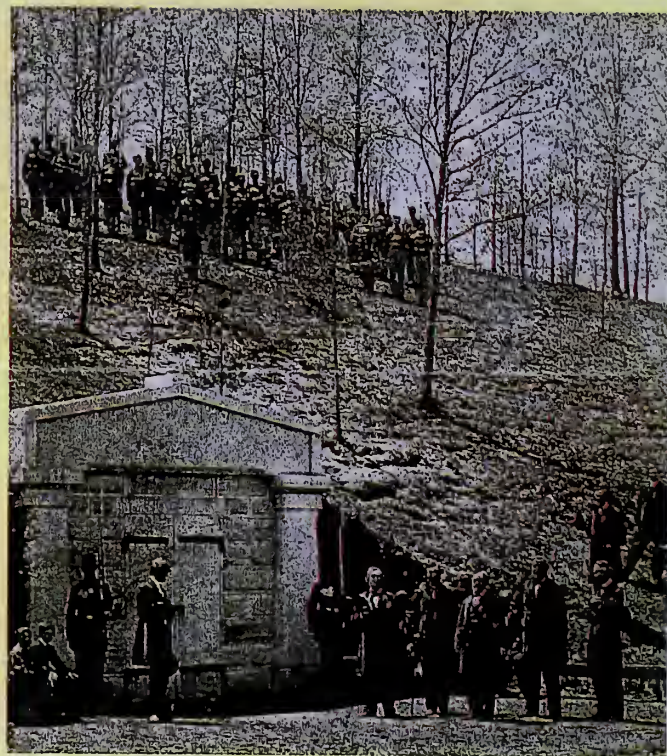
Present officers and members of the board of directors are: Rev. James A. Griffin, president; Rev. L. G. Kipping, vice president; Rev. L. Riesen, honorary vice president; Frank L. Trutter, corresponding secretary; James Reilly, financial sec-

Learning from Others' Mistakes

In the fall of 1992, Illinois arborists, horticulturists, and historians lost their battle to save a healthy oak tree that had been witness to the burial of Abraham Lincoln in 1865. The white oak grew on the side of a hill at the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site in Springfield, a few feet from the vault in which the assassinated president's body was held from the time of his funeral until a permanent tomb was built on top of the hill eight months later. When cut down, the tree was 38 inches in diameter and was assessed by arborists as worth \$25,000—without any consideration of its historic significance.

But architects and state officials who were planning to restore the vault claimed the tree was in the way of their project, and that its roots or falling limbs could someday damage the structure. The battle raged for more than a year, with would-be saviors of the tree providing testimony that the tree posed no danger to the vault, as well as presenting photographs showing the tree at the time of Lincoln's funeral. But the tree's fate was sealed when skeptical state officials sent a partial core from the Lincoln vault oak to a forestry professor who, without benefit of any other evidence, estimated that the tree had not sprouted until after Lincoln's death.

A local professional arborist refused to cut down the tree, so the deed was done by a general contractor, who hauled off the 30-foot main trunk worth an estimated \$100,000 as an historic



The Lincoln vault oak shown as a sapling in May 1865, near the top right corner of the vault in the far left photo. Left: Sternberg (at left) with the dissected stump of the tree in May 1994.

artifact. Although a handful of seedlings from the tree were rescued, most were trampled during the course of the restoration.

Guy Sternberg, president of the International Oak Society with his own arboretum in Petersburg, Illinois, was determined to make something positive of the loss. Along with preservationists and others, he salvaged the 14,000-pound stump and used dissection and X-rays to reveal a number of historical features, including a scar made in 1865 when the hillside on which the oak grew was cleared for the choir that sang at Lincoln's funeral. It was determined that the tree had sprouted in 1844.

Portions of the dissected stump will be donated to the National Park Service for inclusion in its collection of Lincoln mem-

orabilia, and a cross section from the tree is on permanent display at the Lincoln Memorial Garden Nature Center at Lake Springfield. Remaining root pieces were made into gavel by a Springfield woodcrafter, Emmett Riley, and in cooperation with the conservation organization American Forests, sold to help reforest the city cemetery that surrounds the state-owned tomb.

Some of the funds have recently been used to buy a tree-transplanting machine that Sternberg—retained on a pro bono basis by the Springfield City Council—will use to plant “biologically and historically significant” seedlings and grafts that he has selected from trees at the cemetery and elsewhere around the world. Most are oaks, appropriately, since the site is called the Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Sternberg adds that nothing can really compensate for the loss of the original tree. “The people who ordered the tree cut down had training in other areas and probably didn’t realize what damage they were doing,” he says. They failed to understand that the tree was healthy and posed no real threat to the tomb, and failed to appreciate it as a living and spiritual link to history, he adds. “I think the most important thing that can come from this is to be more aware of our other historic trees and any possible threats to them, so that this doesn’t happen again. And when a tree falls or really must be removed, the historical information included within its rings should be read like a book and conserved like any other historic artifact, not consigned to the sawmill or the woodpile.”

—Kathleen Fisher, Editor

